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EXAMINER

MURPHY, RHONDA L

ART UNIT

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is responsive to the communication filed on 4/9/09. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, 8 and 10 have been previously canceled and claims 1, 3, 5 – 7, 9, 11 and 12 are currently pending.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

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consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1, 3, 5 – 7, 9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ong et al. (US 7,130,263) in view of Gullicksen et al. (US 6,751,189).

Regarding claims 1 and 7, Ong teaches a transmission apparatus used for forming a ring network that supports a bidirectional ring switching capability (*Fig. 5*), the transmission apparatus comprising: a detecting part (*Fig. 6A, protection handler 665, located within each node*) for detecting a ring switching request from a received signal including identifiers of transmission apparatuses between which a failure occurs (*col. 12, lines 49-55; identifiers of transmission apparatus: col. 10, lines 19-31*), wherein the ring switching request is sent from one of the transmission apparatuses that detects the failure (*col. 9, lines 32-37*), and at least one of the transmission apparatuses performs line switching after receiving the ring switching request that goes around the ring network (*col. 9, lines 32-37*); a storing part (*protection units 650 and 655*) storing a concatenation setting information table that includes concatenation setting information for each identifier of transmission apparatuses forming the network (*Table 1; col. 12, lines 28-34*); an obtaining part (*protection group manager 630A*) obtaining an identifier from the ring switching request (*col. 10, lines 25-28, source and destination node information; further described in col. 12, lines 1-9*) and concatenation setting information, corresponding to the identifier, from the concatenation setting information table (*Table 1; col. 9, lines 58 to col. 10, lines 25; also described in col. 7, lines 33-40*); and a setting part (*traffic handler 670*) making a concatenation setting for a protection

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line according to the concatenation setting information (*col. 12, lines 54-63*); a detecting part detecting a concatenation setting in the transmission apparatus (*col. 12, lines 49-63*); and a sending part (interface 610), sending the respective identifier of the transmission apparatus corresponding to the concatenation setting and sending the information to another transmission apparatus (*col. 10, lines 19-39*), wherein the concatenation setting information is for connecting basic unit signals transmitted over the ring network (*col. 7, lines 38-45*).

Ong fails to explicitly teach adding the respective identifier of the transmission apparatus to concatenation setting information and sending the concatenation setting information with the respective identifier to another transmission apparatus.

However, Gullicksen teaches adding the respective identifier of the transmission apparatus to concatenation setting information and sending the concatenation setting information with the respective identifier to another transmission apparatus (*col. 9, lines 17-45: CSDP message including an ID and concatenation information; col. 9, lines 56-59 further describes distributing the information to each node*).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Ong's apparatus with Gullicksen's teaching of adding the identifier to concatenation setting information and sending this information, for the purpose of allowing each node to update its table to accurately reflect the current characteristics of the ring in which the node is connected.

Regarding claims 3 and 9, Ong teaches the transmission apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 7, wherein the obtaining part obtains the concatenation setting information

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from information received from another transmission apparatus (*col. 12, lines 22-25; col. 10, lines 25-28*).

Regarding claims 5 and 11, the combined apparatus of Ong and Gullicksen teach the transmission apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 7. Ong fails to explicitly disclose wherein, when the respective identifier is changed, the sending part adds the changed identifier to the concatenation setting information and sends the concatenation setting information with the changed identifier to another transmission apparatus.

However, Gullicksen further teaches wherein, when the respective identifier is changed, the sending part adds the changed identifier to the concatenation setting information and sends the concatenation setting information with the changed identifier to another transmission apparatus (*col. 9, lines 17-45*).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Ong's apparatus with Gullicksen's teaching, for the purpose of allowing each node to update its table to accurately reflect the current characteristics of the ring in which the node is connected.

Regarding claims 6 and 12, the combined apparatus of Ong and Gullicksen teach the transmission apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 7. Gullicksen further teaches a part adding the respective identifier to first of concatenation setting information stored in the storing part and sending the first of concatenation setting information with the respective identifier to another transmission apparatus in response to receiving a predetermined command (*col. 9, lines 17-45*); and a part receiving second of concatenation setting information from another transmission apparatus, writing respective concatenation

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setting information into the received second of concatenation setting information, and sending the second of concatenation setting information to another transmission apparatus (col. 10, lines 48-54).

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RHONDA MURPHY whose telephone number is (571)272-3185. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 - 5:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on (571) 272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Rhonda Murphy
Examiner
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